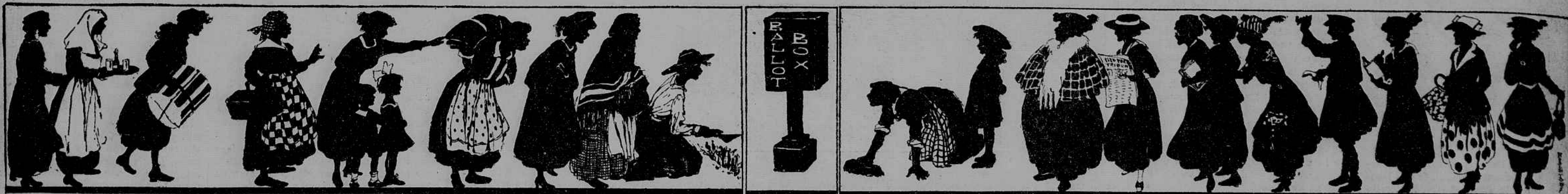


Woman Suffrage—Over There and Over Here



By MARIE DE MONTALVO
Editor "The New Citizen"

SUFFRAGE is still an issue—except for Canada, an all-America issue. In the United States ten campaigns are now under way, some for the Federal and others for the state amendment. In Idaho, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Delaware and Massachusetts suffragists are campaigning to elect on November 5 candidates to the United States Senate who will support the Federal amendment there when it comes to a vote, probably within a few weeks. In Oklahoma, Michigan, South Dakota and Louisiana the state amendment will be submitted by referendum on November 5. Arkansas will vote on a new state constitution December 14, and this includes provision for full woman suffrage.

"Beat Baird" is the slogan in New Jersey of the state suffrage association and the National Woman's party. Senator Baird, a Republican, is filling by appointment the place left vacant in the Senate by the death of Senator Hughes, when the vote on the amendment came up. He voted against it, and is now a candidate to succeed himself by popular vote to serve during the rest of Senator

Hughes's term, that is, until next March. Suffragists are asking even the men of his own party to vote against him and elect Hennessy in his place for the few months during which the amendment will be under consideration.

The same situation exists in New Hampshire, where voters are asked to defeat George H. Moses, Republican candidate for the Senate, opposed to suffrage, in favor of John E. Jameson, Democrat, who has come out in favor of it.

The Massachusetts Suffrage Association recently passed a resolution characterizing the vote against the Senate amendment of Senators Weeks and Lodge as "contrary to the ideals of democracy as expressed in the civilized world," and went on to say that the attitude of these gentlemen toward the womanhood of their country was one of indignity and blind prejudice—"one that liberal women will remember for all time."

Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, is the next under fire. The first volley has come from "The Woman Citizen," official organ of the National American Woman Suffrage party, in which an editorial accuses him on eleven charges of "inconsistency, insincerity and injustice." Representing a party that stands

for suffrage, elected by a state that has had woman suffrage since 1896, Senator Borah nevertheless stands alone in the entire Senate as the only suffragist who voted against the amendment.

In Michigan a unique situation exists. Twenty-five organizations, political, professional, commercial—schools, churches, philanthropic societies, the grange, the Woman's Benefit Association of the Mac-

cabees—practically every group of men and women possessing any influence in the state—have allied themselves with the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association in its fight for the right to vote.

South Dakota is a "first paper" state—which means that any immigrant within a short time after registering his intention to become naturalized can voice his wishes by way of the ballot. So the suffrage clause is combined here with a citizenship amendment in an effort to make the representation at the polls of South Dakota 100 per cent American.

But it seems only a matter of time before women will be casting ballots at the general elections, too, since this measure has been urged both by the press and by the Democratic party at its last convention. Women here have already demonstrated their interest by turning out fifty thousand strong to register their convictions at the last primary.

So much for the various states. As for the Senate, which is expected to vote again on the Federal amendment within a few weeks, since the conversion of Pollock, of South Carolina, who is slated to succeed Senator Benet on November 5, there will be, if all goes well, only one more vote to win. And suffragists believe that this will come from New Jersey or New Hampshire.

But—to quote a Tribune editorial of September 30—"the issue of women's voting depends not in the least upon the one vote that may or may not be forthcoming to make the necessary two-thirds. That issue does not hang in the balance in any progressive nation in the world. It has been settled, settled for all time, in favor of progress and democracy. Only the ratification of this great forward step by our most conservative legislative body remains—a small detail in the history of a great reform."

The Senate and the Clock of Progress

WOMEN may be excused for exhibiting some impatience when statesmen hesitate and haggle over a measure of such vital importance to the sex as the suffrage amendment. They find it hard to comprehend why gentlemen who can see the wisdom of appropriating billions for the common defense, and the necessity of sending millions of our young men to fight for the nation's safety, should so utterly fail to appreciate the fact that the whole theory on which we wage war is untenable unless a sword is put in women's hands at home wherewith to protect themselves.

It is merely incidental that the "best" voters of the country are in France and women must take their places if the quality of national representation in Washington is to be kept up or improved. If the suffrage amendment in any circumstance is not a war measure, there is no such thing as a war measure.

The color question is causing opposition from the South, unfortunately, and Senator Baird, of New Jersey, sees in his state's rejection of suffrage some time ago a plausible basis on which to put his continued opposition. It is felt that he, in common with other "objectors," has failed utterly to grasp the significance of the world war in its relation to the emancipation of women. Three years ago, perhaps, the necessity for action was not so

acute that extension of women's rights, state by state, was unsatisfactory, but the need now is real and immediate. The war has made this perfectly obvious. Woman is making shells in a political situation that is based on conditions which existed when no woman worked outside of her own home and the



—Courtesy "The Woman Citizen."
"Those are my sentiments"

industry of the world was carried on entirely by men.

It would be well if Senator Baird and other Senators could go through the experience which resulted in the conversion of Edward W. Bok, editor of "The Ladies' Home Journal," formerly a radical opponent of suffrage. Mr. Bok did not doubt the sincerity of Roosevelt's conversion to the cause, but was curious about it. "The trouble with

you is that you are ignorant on the subject," averred Roosevelt. "I'll send you some books. Read them and you may change your mind."

Some days later an express wagon drove up to Mr. Bok's residence in Merion and began unloading long, heavy boxes. It appeared to the editor that some excavating expedition in Palestine had been favoring him with specimens of its finds. The boxes, however, happened to be filled with the "some books" to which Roosevelt had referred. Mr. Bok began a course in reading. He was amazed to discover that each volume had within it indisputable evidence of having been gone over carefully by the ex-President. There were authoritative analyses of suffrage in the Scandinavian states, in New Zealand, everywhere on earth that the experiment had been tried.

What had happened to Roosevelt now happened to Mr. Bok. He also became a convert. It is a pity that the same selection of volumes cannot be read now by busy Senators, though there should be no need of it, so much more convincing have suffrage arguments since become. The unanswerable one is that the Hun's plan to turn back the hands of the clock has as a fundamental feature the driving back of woman to the position she occupied a thousand years ago. The hands cannot be turned forward unless woman goes forward with them.

P. N. WHALEY.

The Franchise in Canada

THE Canadian House of Commons passed House Bill No. 3, an act to confer the electoral franchise upon women, amid a calm, matter-of-fact approval from all corners of the nation that is a commentary on the strange differences between northern North America and the United States.

The bill was a government bill, far more immediate in its effect and more generous in its provisions than the Federal amendment now before the United States Senate. Its smooth course in passage was enough to make an American suffragist wistful for the simplicity of British procedure in legislative bodies. It was certain of passage from the moment of introduction by the Union government. It was introduced by Sir Robert Laird Borden, Conservative Prime Minister, and found no opposition except in the innermost heart of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition.

The bill gives the franchise at Dominion elections to all women over twenty-one who are British subjects, by birth or naturalization, provided they have fulfilled the usual residential qualifications for voting in operation for the male electorate and are not disqualified by race, blood or original nationality to vote for members of the legislative assembly of the province in which they live.

The bill made no niggardly provisions for women over thirty only. It does not attempt to insure supremacy for the rest of this generation, throughout the period of reconstruction, to male intelligence,

as the recent British act enfranchising women does. And it has a feature which will be even more satisfactory to European feminists than our Federal amendment: Danish feminists, in particular, have always maintained that women were more to be recognized as daughters of their fathers and what they were before they happened to marry than of a status to be determined by their affections or the marriage broker. Under this new law a British woman can marry an alien, even a naturalized Austrian, and still maintain her citizenship and right to vote, provided she does not swear allegiance elsewhere or otherwise forfeit her citizenship rights.

This is a precedent that should count much in making public opinion in behalf of a measure introduced by Representative Jeannette Rankin, permitting American women to keep their citizenship, whether they marry Boisselins or Italian counts or Indians.

The only concession in the new law made to Quebec is an amendment which provides that the suffrage shall not be granted in the various provisions on a wider basis than it has been granted to men. In Quebec there still remains a property qualification, based on land-owning, salary or rents. It is to be hoped that this means wives will go on acknowledged allowances; but Mr. Bureau, who felt deeply on the subject, in a recent debate made a point, too, when he said: "When Election Day comes around a man who may have worked hard all his life may find himself in an old man's home, while the old lady across the street will be brought out to vote."

The N. Y. Infirmary for Women and Children

PHYSICIANS on the staff of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, 321 East Fifteenth Street, one of the few institutions in the country conducted by women for women, are preparing to extend the free service which they render to the people of the lower East Side, when additional large numbers of men are taken from that section for army service under the new draft law.

These women feel that there is great opportunity to do their bit in this way, for they believe that a soldier whose dependents will not be neglected in illness while he is absent will be heartened for his task. The abundance of service flags in the tenements in the vicinity of the infirmary shows the great response of the men of the lower East Side to the country's call, for thousands of them have volunteered with the full assent of their families.

When a woman or child in the vicinity of the infirmary who has been accustomed to depend upon a man for support becomes ill there is not in many cases sufficient money to pay even a modest fee to a physician. Many prefer to suffer rather than apply for free treatment, and others are ignorant of how to make such application even if they desire to do so.

The women doctors of the infirmary seek out such cases as far as they can. In addition to the free medical service that is given, a social service department is conducted at the infirmary, which was the pioneer in this country in that important branch of adjunct medical help.

If they cannot extend this help directly, as in the case of the family of a soldier whose allotment of pay has not been received, they are able to put the needy ones in touch with an agency which will be of direct, practical assistance to them for the immediate object that is sought.

"These women need stabilizing," said Miss Lucy F. Ryder, superintendent of the infirmary. "If there is no man in the family to turn to and if misfortune befalls them they are almost helpless."

The activities of the infirmary among the dependents of men in service include daily clinics for all diseases, maternity care and a general out-patient department, besides the social service work. Especial attention is devoted to pre-natal and baby clinics, which are well attended

by the wives of soldiers and sailors. The ignorance shown by many of the lower East Side mothers in the problems which are most important to them is apparent to the women doctors, whose first task is to win their confidence and thus gradually to help them out of their difficulties as far as that is possible.

"The appearance of a soldier's baby,

greater exertions by the kindly advice of the physician.

Sometimes these conversations develop conditions that must be remedied at once in order that the mother may have a chance to take proper care of herself and her children.

"You may give a patient all kinds of medicine," said Miss Ryder, "but if there



The first training camp

which one of the women held in her arms at a recent clinic, showed that it lacked proper nourishment," said Miss Ryder. "What can I do?" the mother asked in the most imploring manner. I told her to go to a milk station and get food for the baby. 'Where is it?' she asked. When I told her that the station was on Eleventh street she inquired again: 'Where is Eleventh Street?'

In many cases the women doctors have to make use of all the devices of which they can think in order to win the confidence of their patients. This applies especially to the foreign element. There must be not a little talk about subjects which are not essential to the purpose in hand before the mother can take in the fact not only that the woman doctor's aim is to help her, but that the doctor possesses sufficient skill to render necessary service. When the babies are clean and otherwise well cared for the mothers are greatly pleased by a little compliment, and are willing to be spurred to

is something that is greatly disturbing her it will do her no good. Often we find that there is a condition back of the symptoms that must be remedied before we can render really useful help. This is why the social service work is so important to us. It is the aim of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children always to raise the family of a patient to a satisfactory standard of living. Even women and children who need eyeglasses receive them free, and in some cases this increases materially their scanty earning power."

Dr. Annie S. Daniel, who has worked for many years on the East Side and is considered an angel of mercy in hundreds of homes there, is in charge of the infirmary's out-patient department. She receives an expense fund, contributed by individuals who know the great good which she can do with the money. Most of this is spent on food and the rest on ice and coal.

A campaign is now being conducted to add \$200,000 to the hospital's fund. No better use can be found for your money than to add a few dollars to it.

Ballots at the Antipodes

AUSTRALIA granted franchise to women by states beginning in 1894 and ending with the bestowal of full, nation-wide elective privileges and the right to sit in representative assemblies in 1908. According to Lady Holder, wife of Sir Frederick W. Holder, Speaker of the House of Representatives, suffrage came easily and naturally—there was no "shrieking sisterhood."

"The newspapers," she is quoted as saying, "gave special attention to women at the time, and teemed with exhortations telling them what to do; and those who had most opposed the measure were loudest in their approval and advice. (Can it be that this has a familiar ring to the ears of New York women?)

And the result of it all was, to quote Lady Holder again, that "women have become more interested in the world outside and men more interested in the home"—and she concludes with saying that she finds it less difficult to vote than to match a ribbon!

New Zealand, which has been called an ideal spot for social experiments because of its geographical isolation and its small population, was the first nation to grant suffrage to women. The idea was presented as early as 1843, it is said, by two gentlemen—Alfred Saunders and William Fox—although the Hon. Hugh H. Lusk, then a member of Parliament, claims that it originated with him in 1877. The first thin wedge, he says, was inserted when he conceived the plan in that year of omitting the word "male" before the word "householder" in a bill under consideration to empower householders within a district to elect a school committee.

The word "male" was omitted, and the little experiment began. Result: Women showed such intelligent interest in their new power that they were forth-

with elected members of the school boards. So when in 1882 the question arose of giving ratepayers the license to vote, what more natural than that women should be included in this measure, too?

The year 1886 found municipal suffrage quietly granted them also; and full suffrage came in 1893, with eligibility to all elective offices except membership in Parliament.

At the first election thereafter 83 per cent of the women qualified to vote went to the polls, although they had never gone before—and only 70 per cent of the men, who had enjoyed the privilege for years. But did antagonism result from this? No, indeed! The effect, in that utopian land, was to rouse men to their responsibility, so that now they are as active as the women. And, as one man put it, "when men suddenly found they could take their wives and daughters to meetings with them a new and better family life began."

New Zealand women, according to Sir Joseph George Ward, who was then premier, are inclined to vote with their families and are true to their class; but they are less hampered by tradition than are men. When asked whether they advocate "pet reforms" he replied that they rather constituted themselves an "examining board" devoted to the public interest.

"Tell your friends at home not to be discouraged," he said to a British suffragist, before women were enfranchised in England. "Political enfranchisement came to the women of New Zealand with dramatic suddenness, and by a margin of only two votes. But if votes of approbation could be taken on it now I doubt if two could be found against it."

And that, if he were asked, would probably be his message to American suffragists who are now working for those same fatal two votes that won the franchise in New Zealand many years ago.

A Word About Louisiana

By ROSE FALLS BRES

(Admitted to the Bar of Louisiana in 1898 and the first woman to practise in State and Federal courts in that state)

LOUISIANA—heart of the Southland, where pine forests reach toward the bluest of skies, where flowers bloom brightest and sweetest, where the great Mississippi pours its flood into the Gulf! Louisiana—where the counties are called parishes and where tiny bayous thread their way through gloomy swamps, then unruly like shining bands of ribbon over stretches of prairie and between great fields of cane and cotton! Louisiana—where in song and story the chivalry of her sons has been told since the mind of man runneth not to the contrary! Louisiana—where the unwritten law and the Jim Crow ordinance pass current without protest or comment, where the old French Code Napoleon is the basis of all rules, and where prejudice and sentiment are so interwoven that the march of progress has sometimes been stayed—Louisiana presents to its voters on the second of next month an amendment to give women suffrage!

New York women who take suffrage as a matter of course might ponder on some of the inequalities to which the women of Louisiana have submitted and which, if by great good chance the amendment should receive a majority of votes at the coming election, they will seek to remedy.

In that state so well established has the rule been that a woman must be guided in all things by her husband that the one act she was permitted to carry out without direction had to be provided for. Article 135 of the code reads:

"The wife may make her last will and testament without the authorization of her husband."

Of course, the fact that she has to die in order to make this one act effective rather lessens her satisfaction. Then, too, there is Article 90 of the code, which reads:

"As the law considers marriage in no other way than that of civil contract, it sanctions all those marriages where the parties at the time were willing to contract and did contract according to the forms and solemnities prescribed by law."

But the contract was manifestly unilateral, since Article 24 says:

"Laws, on account of the difference of sexes, have established between men and women essential differences with respect to civil, social and political rights."

Article 1782 continues:

"All persons have the capacity to contract except those whose incapacity is specially declared by law. These are persons of insane mind, those who are interdicted and married women."

It is of record that a suit was tried before a judge of the Civil District Court where both plaintiff and defendant were women and all of the witnesses were women. The judge, at the close of the case, entered a judgment of non-suit, saying that there had been nothing before the court.

When what is known as a "family meeting" is convened for the purpose of disposing of the property of a minor it is expressly stipulated by the code that only "male relatives" may be called.

When a suit is brought in Louisiana by a married woman she must be authorized by her husband to sue and stand in judgment, and to sue a married woman without citing her husband would not be allowed.

Not only must the husband appear and authorize his wife to purchase real estate, but if property is left to her and for any reason she does not wish to accept it he may appear and accept for her.

In the cities of Louisiana and in the smallest of the parish towns the women of the state are campaigning for freedom, and as Louisiana votes, so, it may be expected, will other Southern states fall in line in the near future.

Europe and the Woman Vote

By LEON LANSBERG

DESPITE the war, or rather as a consequence of the war, the woman suffrage movement has gained considerable successes all the world over. Emilie Gourde, president of the Swiss Woman Suffrage Alliance, strikes in the "Journal de Genève" the annual balance, and in doing so publishes the following interesting statistics:

In the United States eight more states have during the last year introduced woman suffrage, and, among them, in first line, the State of New York. With this addition, twenty states out of forty-four have granted the vote to women. Already the national House of Representatives has voted to submit to the states a constitutional amendment for woman suffrage, and there is good reason to believe that sooner or later the Senate also will approve the resolution.

The Russian revolution has proclaimed the equality of man and woman under the law, and in the future Russian Republic women will vote.

In Finland twenty-four women are active in the food office.

In Norway women have the active and passive elective franchise.

In Denmark they have for the first time availed themselves of their franchise on the occasion of the referendum on the cession of the Danish West Indies to the United States.

In Sweden woman suffrage is so far introduced in communal affairs only, because the obstinate resistance of the conservatives prevents women's political activity.

England has resolved to grant the vote to all women over thirty years of age, this limitation being necessary in

order to prevent the prevalence of the female vote over that of the lords of creation. The woman suffrage act was adopted in the lower house with 388 votes against 55 in January, 1917, and approved in the House of Lords by a majority of votes in January of this year.

The women of Holland find themselves in an odd situation: although eligible, they do not possess the right of election. A parliament will be elected in the year 1918, and on the ticket a number of capable women candidates are figuring. The question is only whether or not the men are going to honor women by electing them to office.

In France woman suffrage has ardent advocates and the question is being over and over again taken up and advocated in Parliament and brought nearer to a victorious solution. Maurice Barres, it is known, has demanded that widows of war be granted the vote.

In Italy, too, the feminist wave has risen, and several ministers and distinguished persons are espousing the women's cause.

In the countries of the Central Powers the woman suffrage question, together with other internal political problems, is under consideration.

In Switzerland the women's movement, owing to the clumsy political machinery, could not develop energetically. In Bern it was rejected by the council; in the councils of Basle and Zurich motions to elaborate a bill bearing on the question were made as late as December, 1917.

In Geneva a motion was made by Mr. Guillemin that Swiss women of the age of twenty-five should be granted the right to vote. At present they are gathering signatures in support of this proposition, shortly to be discussed by the council.

The Tribune Institute

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